Amendments to the Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for smart connection management of a portable device (110) configured to support a plurality of network connection types, the method comprising: storing at least one profile ~~(245)~~ in the portable device, the profile storing configuration parameters ~~(243)~~ for each of the plurality of network connection types and user definable selection criteria ~~(247)~~ for selecting between the plurality of network connection types; detecting a plurality of network connections available to the portable device, each of the plurality of network connections having a different connection type; selecting a particular one of the plurality of network connections based on the user definable selection criteria and the connection type of each of the plurality of network connections; and activating the selected network connection using the stored configuration parameters associated with the network connection type of the selected network connection.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing comprises downloading the at least one profile from a remote server ~~(160)~~ in response to activation of the portable device.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing comprises downloading the at least one profile from a remote profile database ~~(170)~~.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration parameters include parameters for automatically controlling connection authentication.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4, wherein the parameters for automatically controlling connection authentication include a user name and password.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration parameters include parameters for automatically controlling IP tunneling.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the selection criteria comprises at least one of a day of week parameter, time of day parameter, location parameter, link quality threshold parameter, access fee limit parameter, time of use limit parameter, and an available battery capacity parameter.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising: monitoring the plurality network connection to determine whether the selected network connection continues to satisfy the user definable selection criteria; and if the selected network connection ceases to satisfy the user definable selection criteria, deactivating the selected network connection, and activating a second one of the plurality of network connections based on the user definable selection criteria and the connection type of each of the plurality of network connections.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of monitoring comprises monitoring at least one of a link quality of the selected network connection, access fees applicable to the selected network connection, an amount of time that the selected network connection has been activated, and a location of the portable device.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of activating the second one of the plurality of network connections comprises performing automatic tunnel negotiation and connection authentication for the second connection in accordance with the configuration parameters stored in the at least one profile.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for smart connection management of a portable device ~~(110)~~ configured to support a plurality of network connection types, the system comprising: at least one profile ~~(245)~~ stored within the portable device, the at least one profile storing configuration parameters (243) for each of the plurality of network connection types and user definable selection criteria ~~(247)~~ for selecting between the plurality of network connection types; a connection detector ~~(270)~~ configured to detect network connections available to the portable device, the connection detector being configured to detect network connection of each of the plurality of network connection types; a connection manager (240), coupled to the profile and the connection detector, configured to select a particular one of the

plurality of network connections based on the user definable selection criteria and the connection type of each of the plurality of network connections, and activate the selected network connection using the stored configuration parameters associated with the network connection type of the selected network connection.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 11, wherein the configuration parameters and user definable selection criteria are downloaded from a remote server ~~(170)~~ by the portable device and stored in the at least one profile in response to activation of the portable device.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 11, wherein the configuration parameters and user definable selection criteria stored in the at least one profile are downloaded by the portable device from a remote profile database ~~(170)~~.

14. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 11, wherein the configuration parameters include parameters for automatically controlling connection authentication.

15. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 14, wherein the parameters for automatically controlling connection authentication include a user name and password.

16. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 11, wherein the configuration parameters include parameters for automatically controlling IP tunneling.

17. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 11, wherein the selection criteria comprises at least one of a day of week parameter, time of day parameter, location parameter, link quality threshold parameter, access fee limit parameter, time of use limit parameter, and an available battery capacity parameter.

18. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 11, wherein the connection manager is further configured to: monitor the plurality network connection to determine whether the selected network connection continues to satisfy the user definable selection criteria; and if the selected network connection ceases to satisfy the user definable

selection criteria, deactivate the selected network connection, and activate a second one of the plurality of network connections based on the user definable selection criteria and the connection type of each of the plurality of network connections.

19. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 18, wherein the connection manager is configured to monitor at least one of a link quality of the selected network connection, access fees applicable to the selected network connection, an amount of time that the selected network connection has been activated, and a location of the portable device.

20. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 18, wherein connection manager is configured to activation the second one of the plurality of network connections by performing automatic tunnel negotiation and connection authentication in accordance with the configuration parameters stored in the at least one profile.